

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 L-03 AID-05 MC-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EUR-12 IGA-02 /076 W
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R 011052Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1652

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 7200

SECDEF FOR ASD/ISA-DSAA

CINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MASS, LE

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE - LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 6875 (DTG 101248Z AUG 76)

1. IF AND WHEN THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON FINALLY WINDS DOWN, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT GOL WILL REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM USG IN REBUILDING ITS ARMY AND INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES (ISF). IN FACT, WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, ISF, WHO ASKED ON 6 AUG FOR AN IMMEDIATE GRANT FOR UNIFORMS (REFTEL), AND SIMILAR INDICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES. FROM PRIOR EXPERIENCE, GOL WILL NOT LIMIT ITS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO USG, BUT WILL ALSO PUT OUT FEELERS TO 1) WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; 2) OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES; AND 3) POSSIBLY TO THE USSR, DEPENDING ON RESPONSE FROM OTHER SOURCES. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE NATURE OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT THAT EVENTUALLY EMERGES AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH OIL RICH ARAB
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COUNTRIES ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE CASH AND MATERIEL

AID.

2. PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR, US SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON WAS, FOR THE MOST PART, SOLELY A POLITICAL FUNCTION; HOWEVER, DUE TO THE COMPLETE DISINTEGRATION OF THE ARMY/ISF, THERE IS NOW A VALID MILITARY NEED AS WELL. IF THE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON IS TO BE CONTAINED IN THE FUTURE, THE GOL WILL NEED A HIGHLY MOBILE AND WELL TRAINED SECURITY FORCE. HOW BADLY IT WILL NEED US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND ITS EXACT REQUIREMENTS, IS STILL TO BE DETERMINED; HOWEVER, THE NORMAL USG SECURITY ASSISTANCE CYCLE IS LENGTHY PROCESS AND IF WE WANT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE MILITARY NEEDS OF GOL WHEN THE TIME COMES, WE SHOULD BEGIN TENTATIVE PLANNING NOW. USG MIGHT ALSO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE FEASIBILITY OF BEING THE ORIGINATOR OF AN OFFER RATHER THAN WAITING FOR GOL TO COME TO US. ANOTHER POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO COORDINATE WITH FRANCE A JOINT OFFER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

3. OUR DATT HAS EXAMINED THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY ON THE EVE OF ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE CIVIL WAR AND THE VARIOUS REORGANIZATION PLANS THAT HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN PUT FORWARD BY BOTH SIDES. HE HAS ALSO MADE AN ESTIMATE OF THE MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING SHORTFALL THAT LEBANESE ARMY WILL FACE ONCE THE WAR IS OVER. BASED ON THESE ALBEIT SPECULATIVE ASSESSMENTS, WE PROPOSE CONSIDERATION OF A ONE TIME GRANT OF 25 MILLION DOLLARS; A SERIES OF ANNUAL FMS CREDIT LOANS; AND AN INCREASE/MODIFICATION OF THE GRANT AID TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LEBANON. THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD BE BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

A. GRANT AID MATERIEL:

EIGHT BELL 212 HELICOPTERS	10,000,000
TWENTY V-150 COMMANDO VEHICLES	3,000,000
FIFTY M113A1 APC'S	5,000,000

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TWENTY-FIVE M602 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS	200,000
FIFTY M151A1 1/4 TON TRUCKS	350,000
SIGNAL EQUIPMENT, TO INCL GENERATORS	2,000,000
AUTOMOTIVE SPARES (TO INCL CONVERSION OF FMS CASES UKZ AND ULF)	300,000
M113A1 SPARES (TO INCL CONVERSION OF FMS CASES ULA, ULC AND ULH)	250,000
10,000 M16A1 RIFLES AND AMMO	2,750,000

M16A1 AND 50 CAL MG SPARES (TO INCL CONVERSION OF FMS CASE UKY)	150,000
MISCELLANEOUS OTHER REQUIREMENTS	1,000,000
TOTAL	\$ 25,000,000

TO ENSURE BEST POSSIBLE LEAD TIMES, RECOMMEND THAT ONE TIME GRANT BE PROGRAMMED FOR FY 77, RATHER THAN SPREADING IT OUT OVER SEVERAL YEARS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THESE ARE ESTIMATES ONLY OF LEB ARMY/ISF REQUIREMENTS AFTER THE WAR. ACTUAL NEEDS WOULD HAVE TO BE JOINTLY DETERMINED AFTER ALL THEIR FORMER EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN GATHERED AND INSPECTED AND A DOD SURRVEY TEAM MIGHT ALSO BE NEEDED.

B. FMS CREDIT: THE GOL HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTING FMS CREDIT (I.E. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVAL); HOWEVER, UNDER PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS AND A RECONSTRUCTION-ORIENTED GOVERNMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS OBSTACLE MIGHT FINALLY BE OVERCOME. TO ALLOW THE GOL RELATIVELY FIRM MATERIEL ACQUISITION PLANNING OPTIONS, RECOMMEND USG CONSIDER A TEN MILLION DOLLAR FMS CREDIT LEVEL FOR FY 77 AND THE OUTYEARS. BULK OF CREDIT WOULD BE FOR GRADUAL EXPANSION UP TO A FORCE OF PERHAPS 35,000 MEN AND REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLESCEMENT EQUIPMENT THAT WILL BE NEEDED IN THE INITIAL PERIOD OF REORGANIZATION. IT IS TOO SOON TO IDENTIFY EXACT REQUIREMENTS AT THIS TIME. WE REALIZE THAT LEGISLATION PRECLUDES COMMITMENT OF FMS CREDIT BEYOND THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, AND WE WOULD MAKE THIS QUITE CLEAR IN ANY JOINT PLANNING WITH THE GOL.

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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R 011052Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1653

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 7200

SECDEF FOR ASD/ISA-DSAA

CINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7

C. GRANT AID TRAINING:

1) CONUS TRAINING: WE RECOMMEND A \$500,000 PROGRAM FOR FY 77 AND 78, AND THEN \$300,000 THROUGH FY 82.

(A) OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE ON THE REBUILDING OF THE NEW ARMY AFTER THE WAR WILL BE JUNIOR AND MIDDLE GRADE OFFICER LEADERSHIP TRAINING. MIDDLE GRADE OFFICER TRAINING IS STRESSED IN OUR PROPOSED \$300,000 FY 77 PROGRAM AND WITH THE ADDITION OF TWO ARMOR OFFICER AND ONE ADA OFFICER ADVANCE COURSE QUOTAS (APPROXIMATELY \$25,000), THIS WILL GIVE THE LEB ARMY A BALANCED PROGRAM AT THAT LEVEL.

(B) TO MEET THE JUNIOR OFFICER LEADERSHIP PROBLEM, WE PROPOSE ADDING EIGHT INFANTRY OFFICER BASIC, WITH FOLLOW ON RANGER, FOUR ARMOR, FOUR FA AND TWO SIGNAL OFFICER BASIC COURSES TO THE FY 77 PROGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT FOUR MORE TRACK/WHEEL VEHICLE MECHANIC QUOTAS WOULD GREATLY ASSIST IN RESOLVING ANTICIPATED MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS. TOTAL ADD ON FOR THE BASIC OFFICER AND MAINTENANCE COURSES
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IS ESTIMATED AT \$125,000.

(C) FINALLY, AS A FINANCIAL ASSIST, WE PROPOSE THAT THE US REASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROUND TRIP TRAVEL COSTS FROM LEBANON TO CONUS WHICH WILL ADD APPROXIMATELY \$40,000 TO THE CURRENT FY 77 PROGRAM (THESE COSTS ARE ALREADY INCLUDED IN ABOVE PROPOSED ADD ON TRAINING).

2) IN COUNTRY TRAINING:

(A) ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IN ENSURING EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN TRAINING QUOTAS IN THE US WAS THAT CHRISTIANS GENERALLY TENDED TO BE MORE FLUENT IN ENGLISH THAN MUSLIMS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL BE EVEN MORE ACUTE AFTER THE CIVIL WAR AND PROPOSE A THREE YEAR REACTIVATION OF THE DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE INCOUNTRY ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM.

(B) CONVERSION OF FMS CASE UKL (TOW CONTRACTOR TRAINING) TO GRANT AID.

(C) SIX WEEK CONTRACT MAINTENANCE TEAM FOR THE M113A1 APC AND OTHER TRACKED VEHICLES.

4. THIS PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION OF A SECURITY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE TO HELP THE GOL IN ITS RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IS BY NO MEANS ALL INCLUSIVE AND IS BASED ON DATED COST INFORMATION. WE BELIEVE THAT A RESPONSIVE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL BE HIGHLY INSTRUMENTAL IN THE TIMELY REBUILDING OF A VIABLE SECURITY FORCE AND HELP TO INSURE CONTINUED US INFLUENCE WITHIN THE LEBANESE MILITARY ORGANIZATION AS WELL AS ESTABLISHING AN IMMEDIATE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW LEBANESE GOVERNMENT COMMENTS ARE SOLICITED.
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